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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a server operating to receive and store at least one request to modify the behavior of an implantable medical device, the at least one request received from a programmer and created by a clinician via the programmer at a first selected time;

a monitor operating to receive the at least one request from the server and transmit the at least one requests to the implantable medical device at a second selected time; and

a bi-directional communications system communicatively coupling the server and the monitor.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the server is further verifies that the clinician is authorized to submit the at least one requests to the implantable medical device.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the bi-directional communication system is provides a secure communication link between the server and the monitor.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the monitor decrypts the at least one requests.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the monitor transmits the at least one decrypted requests to the implantable medical device using a radio frequency transmitter.

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6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the implantable medical device receives the at least one decrypted requests using a radio frequency receiver.

7.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second selected time is substantially later than the first selected time.

8.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the monitor transmits the at least one decrypted requests to a plurality of implantable medical devices.

9.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the server allows the clinician to submit requests to at least one of the plurality of implantable medical devices.

10.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
        a programmer for creating , at a first selected time, a plurality of requests to modify the operation of at least one of a plurality of implantable medical devices, wherein a clinician operates the programmer to create the plurality of requests;
        a server at a first selected location operating to receive, store, and encrypt the plurality of requests, wherein the server verifies that the clinician is authorized to submit requests to the at least one of the plurality of implantable medical devices;
        a monitor at a second selected location operating to receive and decrypt the plurality of requests from the server and transmit the requests to the at least one of the plurality of implantable medical device at a second selected time; and
        a secure bi-directional communications system enabling the server and the monitor to exchange encrypted information.

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11.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the secure bi-directional communications system comprises a Virtual Private Network.

12.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the secure bi-directional communications system comprises a Secure Socket Layer connection.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitor comprises a radio frequency transmitter that transmits the <u>plurality of</u> request<u>s</u> to the at least one of a plurality of implantable medical devices.

14.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the plurality of implantable medical devices comprise a plurality of radio frequency receivers that receive <u>the</u> requests from the monitor.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second selected time is substantially later than the first selected time.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
        programming at a first selected time at least one request to modify the operation of an implantable medical device;
        storing the <u>at least one</u> request at a first selected location;
        transmitting the <u>at least one</u> request from the first selected location at a second selected time to a second selected location; and
        transmitting the <u>at least one</u> request from the second selected location to the implantable medical device.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein programming comprises authorizing a clinician to create the at least one request.

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18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein programming further comprises selecting the implantable medical device from among a plurality of implantable medical devices that the clinician is authorized to program.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein transmitting the at least one request from the first selected location to the second selected location comprises forming a secure communication link between the first selected location and the second selected location.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein forming a secure connection comprises forming a Virtual Private Network connection.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein forming a secure connection comprises forming a Secure Socket Layer connection.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein transmitting the at least one request from the first selected location further comprises encrypting the at least one request at the first location.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein transmitting the at least one encrypted request from the first selected location to the second selected location further comprises transmitting the encrypted request from the first selected location to the second selected location using the secure connection.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein transmitting the at least one request from the first selected location to the second selected location further comprises decrypting the at least one request at the second selected location.

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25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein transmitting the at least one -request from the first selected location to the second selected location comprises retrieving the at least one request at a second selected time that is substantially later than the first selected time.

26.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

creating, at a first selected time, at least one request to modify the operation of an implantable medical device using a programmer;

storing the at least one request on a server at a first selected location;

encrypting the at least one request on the server at a second selected time in response to notification that a monitor at a second location is substantially ready to receive the request;

transmitting the at least one encrypted request from the server to the monitor through a secure bi-directional communications network when a monitor at a second location is substantially ready to receive the at least one encrypted request;

decrypting the at least one encrypted request on the monitor; and

transmitting the at least one decrypted request from the monitor to the implantable medical device using a radio frequency transmitter.

27.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein creating the at least one request comprises authorizing a clinician to create a request;

28.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein transmitting the at least one encrypted request from the server to the monitor through a secure bi-directional communications network comprises transmitting the at least one encrypted request through a Virtual Private Network.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein transmitting the at least one encrypted request from the server to the monitor through a secure bi-

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directional communications network comprises transmitting the at least one

encrypted request through a Secure Socket Layer.

30.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a programmer for creating, at a first selected time, a plurality of requests
to modify the behavior of at least one of a plurality of implantable medical devices
that deliver therapies to at least one of a plurality of patients, wherein a clinician
utilizes the programmer to create the requests;

a secure bi-directional communication network;

a server coupled to the bi-directional communication network at a first
location and that receives, stores, and encrypts the requests, wherein the server
is also verifies that the clinician is authorized to submit requests to the at least
one of the plurality of implantable medical devices; and

a plurality of monitors coupled to the bi-directional communication network
at a plurality of second selected locations to receive and decrypt the requests
from the server and transmit, at a plurality of second selected times, the requests
to the at least one of the plurality of implantable medical devices.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the bi-directional
communications network comprises at least one of a telephone line, an intranet,
an Internet, a satellite, and a global positioning system.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the plurality of
second selected times is substantially later than the first selected time.